

Decision Record - Memorandum

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Chapter 1. Project NameGrapevine Springs Restoration Project

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1.1. Compliance:

This document is prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Its purpose is to analyze the effects of the proposed action, alternatives, and recommended mitigation measures that would eliminate or lessen environmental impact. The action is also in conformance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) guidance. The proposed action is in conformance with the BLM Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved October 5, 1998.

1.2. Selected Action:

It is my decision to authorize the spring restoration project at Grapevine Springs within the Pahump Field Office. The selected action is Alternative A (Proposed Action) as described in Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S030-2014-0023-EA, dated 02/05/2014. I have determined, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.2, that the Proposed Action, with design features and mitigation measures described in the EA and in the Finding of No Significant Impact (incorporated herein), will not have any significant detrimental effects on the human environment, and thus does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The project will include:

- Installing approximately 800 feet of fence to enclose Grapevine Springs springbrook (from the adit/gate to the two-track road that crosses the spring). The fence will be installed in two stages. The first 600 feet will be installed early 2015 and if no adverse impacts are detected within the first year, additional 200 feet of the springbrook will be fenced, totalling 800 feet of fenced off springbrook. In addition, the lower artificial pond will be breached in a small section to reconnect the spring flow with the main spring channel by way of a culvert under the road. No additional fencing is proposed on the restored/reconnected spring..
- installing interpretive signs to provide information and education to the public on the restoration efforts through the fencing project. The information may also be valuable in reducing the chance of vandalism at this site.
- cutting and planting willow stakes along the main spring to head start the riparian vegetation and additional native rocks may be placed in the spring to enhance habitat for the springsnails.
- monitoring of the site will continue springsnail surveys, water flow data collection, PFC assessment, water quality testing, and wildlife and wild horses and burros usage.

The total amount of disturbance is less than 0.5 acre. Water sources are still available for wildlife and wild horses and burros to use in the unfenced areas of Grapevine Springs as well as the nearby intermittent Kwitchip and Diebert Springs, and multiple springs located on US Forest Service lands in the Spring Mountains.

1.3. Compliance with NEPA:

I have determined the Proposed Action analyzed in EA DOI-BLM-NV-S030-2014-0023-EA, dated 02/05/2015 and FONSI incorporated herein by this reference, is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will not have any significant impact on the

*Chapter 1 Project Name Grapevine Springs
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human environment and the action does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

1.4. Public Involvement:

The Proposed Action and Alternatives were scoped internally amongst BLM Southern Nevada District resource specialists. Upon completion, the final EA, FONSI and Decision Record documents will be posted to the NEPA Register web page where the public can view it along with a project summary. After decision and signature, there will be a 30-day public appeal period before any notice-to-proceed will occur.

1.5. Rationale:

My decision to authorize the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. My decision to authorize the Proposed Action conforms with the 1998 Las Vegas RMP. Moreover, the EA shows that this decision will have a beneficial impact to BLM sensitive springsnails and will provide an additional management tool to improve and maintain the springsnail habitat. In addition, water sources are still available for wildlife and wild horses and burros to use in the unfenced areas of Grapevine Springs as well as the nearby intermittent Kwitchip and Diebert Springs, and multiple springs located on US Forest Service lands in the Spring Mountains. I anticipate that this decision will not cause the loss or destruction of any significant scientific, cultural, biological, or natural resources.

1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the information provided in BLM Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Southern Nevada District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130, within 30 days of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, pursuant to 43 CFR, 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to IBLA and to the appropriate office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof in demonstrating that a stay should be granted.

Standards for obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided for by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;

3. the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
4. whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

1.7. Authorizing Official:

/S/ 02/06/2015

Deborah J. MacNeill
Field Manager, Pahrump Field Office

Date

1.8. Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

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